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## DIPLOMATIC MEDAL OF THE NETHERLANDS.

By the courtesy of the Honorable Charles F. Adams and Mr. John Bartlett of Little, Brown & Company, we have been allowed to use the plate which furnishes the illustration of this number. The following documents are taken from Vol. VIII of *THE WORKS OF JOHN ADAMS, &c., &c.*

Thursday, 6 March, 1788.

MR. DE WASSENAAR CATWYKE, the president of the assembly, brought forward and made known the fact to their High Mightinesses, that Mr. Adams, minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, had been at his house this morning, and had delivered to him, sealed up, a resolution adopted the 5th of October, 1787, by the United States of America, in congress assembled, by which it was allowed to Mr. Adams, at his request, to return to America, and to close his commission as minister plenipotentiary near their High Mightinesses ; and that he had, at the same time, presented a memorial, by which he takes leave of their High Mightinesses, which memorial is in the terms following :—

*To their High Mightinesses the Lords the States General of the United Netherlands.*

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,—The subscriber, minister plenipotentiary from the United States of America, has the honor to communicate to your High Mightinesses an act of the United States of America, in congress assembled, by which he is recalled from his mission to your High Mightinesses and permitted to revisit his native country.

The wisdom and magnanimity with which your High Mightinesses manifested your friendship to the United States of America, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, contributed to accelerate that general peace of the world which has lasted so long ; and the candor and goodness of your High Mightinesses, and of the whole republic, to the subscriber, as well as to his country, have made impressions on his mind, which neither time nor place can ever obliterate.

In terminating his residence in Europe, and in taking a respectful leave of your High Mightinesses, he begs leave to express his thanks for all indulgences and attentions to himself, and his ardent wishes for the happiness of

your High Mightinesses and your families ; and his sincere assurances that, in whatever country he may be, he shall never cease to pray for the liberty, the independence, and the universal prosperity of the whole republic of the United Netherlands.

Done at the Hague, this sixth day of March, A. D. 1788.

Signed, JOHN ADAMS.

Whereupon, it having been considered, it seemed good, and was hereby ordered, that leave be taken of the said Mr. Adams, at the same time declaring that his person and conduct have been agreeable to their High Mightinesses, and that the usual present of a chain and medal of gold, of the value of thirteen hundred florins, be transmitted to him ; the jeweller de Koning having it in charge to prepare the same forthwith.

And a copy of this resolution of their H. M. shall be delivered to the said Mr. Adams by the agent Slicher.

(Signed) W. F. H. VAN WASSENAAR.  
A true copy.

H. FAGEL.

The resolution of Congress is this : —

*By the United States, in Congress assembled, October 5th, 1787.*

On a report of the secretary of foreign affairs, to whom were referred two letters from the Honorable John Adams, of the 24th and 27th January last :

*Resolved.* That the Honorable John Adams, the minister plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of London, be permitted, agreeably to his request, to return to America at any time after the 24th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1788, and that his commission of minister plenipotentiary to their High Mightinesses do also then determine.

*Resolved,* That congress entertain a high sense of the services which Mr. Adams has rendered to the United States, in the execution of the various important trusts which they have from time to time committed to him ; and that the thanks of congress be presented to him, for the patriotism, perseverance, integrity, and diligence with which he hath ably and faithfully served his country.

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*

The character and purpose of this medal and chain were of course similar to the Diplomatic Medal of the United States, previously described at length in the *Journal*. The medal now is in possession of John Q. Adams, Esq.

#### MEDAL IN HONOR OF MR. GLADSTONE.

A MEDAL has been struck to commemorate Mr. Gladstone's seventieth birthday anniversary, and a copy in gold has been accepted by Mrs. Gladstone. On the obverse is an excellent likeness of Mr. Gladstone, with the legend, "William Ewart Gladstone, aet. 70," and the reverse bears the date, "29th December, 1879, Liverpool," surrounded by a wreath of palm and laurel, and the motto from Horace, "Serus in cœlum redeas, diuque latus intersis populo."

### A DANISH-HEBREW COIN.

A DANISH silver coin with Hebrew inscription on the reverse was obtained in a silversmith's shop in the city of Bergen in Norway, last summer, and we are indebted to a gentleman in Montreal for a description of it, from which I make the following extract.

These coins were issued by Copenhagen Jewish bankers at times of necessity, but with the sanction of the sovereign of Denmark. The obverse has the value of the coin, II Marks Danske (two Danish Marks in contradistinction to the Hamburg Mark). Monogram of the Danish King Christian IV. Date 1644. Reverse, Inscription, IUSTUS A Hebrew character denoting "God." IUDEX. Translation, "Jehovah Just Judge."

These coins occur in 1644 and 1645. They were private issues, but sanctioned by the crown; and on one side is invariably either the arms of the state or a monogram of the ruler, denoting the legality of the piece. The inscription is merely the fancy of the issuer.

In this connection I also add the following description of a bronze medal which was lately brought from the city of Perugia, Italy, and which also bears a Hebrew inscription.

Obverse, Bust of the Saviour. On the right side of the head are Hebrew characters, signifying *Jesus*, and on the left a character signifying *Lord*. Reverse, Five lines of Hebrew, signifying "*The Messiah, King, has come in peace, and the Lord has been made Man, moreover.*"

This medal was probably worn by the sick or afflicted as a charm, as appears from the hole in it, and therefore the words—*in peace* (to bring peace.)

R. S.

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### A WOODEN MEDALLION.

As impressions from dies are rarely struck upon wood, a description of an article which has been in my collection for more than twenty years may be of interest. Use was made of a circular disc of wood, sawed across the grain. Diameter, 57 centimeters; thickness on the edge, 13. The wood is of very fine grain, in color yellowish white, resembling maple. It is possible that the pores have been filled artificially.

The obverse shows a figure emblematic of the Church, holding a cross with her right hand, extended over a fallen Turk. The hand of the Turk is raised, as if to shut from his sight the glory of the cross. His turban seems falling off, exposing a bald head. He has a mustachio, but no beard. He wears a crescent on his breast, and has boots on his feet. The Church on the other hand is sandalled, and bears a representation of the sun on her breast. The cross is of the double or patriarchal variety: near it is the motto, IN HOC SIGNO, almost bottom side up, so placed as to connect the x of the word CRVX in the legend with the hand of the Church. Rays stream downward every way from the cross and the motto. The legend is IMBELLLES TVRCos CRVX ATQVE ECCLESIA VINCNT. The sum of the numeral letters, which are made larger than the others, is 1688, the date of the piece.

The reverse represents a walled city, in the centre of which rises a steep fortified hill. Both the fortress and the town below are full of towers and

minarets. The stronghold is further protected by a body of water, all along in front, and around behind it on the right. The legend above is GRIEGISCH WEISSENBURG, that is, "The Greek white-city." The place is no doubt Belgrade, the famous capital of Servia, situated at the junction of the Danube and the Save. Belgrade in the Servian language means "The White City." In the exergue we read, IST IN TURKISCHE GEWALT GERATEN · AO · CHRI: 1521 VON DEN CHRISTEN MIT STÜRMENDER HAND EROBERT · 1688 · D.C · SEPT: "Came into Turkish control A. D. 1521; seized by the Christians with a mighty hand Sept. 6, 1688." It was probably struck in Servia immediately after the victory.

*Iowa College.*

FISK P. BREWER.

### THE CANTERBURY COINS OF EDWARD I., II., AND III.

BY HENRY W. HENFREY.

THE Canterbury Mint was one of the most ancient in England, and, although the earliest known coin bearing the name of this city is one of Baldred, (King of Kent, A. D. 805,) there can be little doubt that money was minted there at even a more ancient date. To enumerate all the coins struck at this important Mint, both those made under royal authority and those under that of the Archbishops, from Anglo-Saxon times down to the reign of Edward VI., would require a considerable volume; and I only purpose, in the present short paper, to deal with the silver pennies which were coined at Canterbury in the times of the first three Edwards.

In examining any considerable number of these coins, a sharp eye will detect various little differences on pieces of the same general type. Some of them, such as dots or pellets placed in various positions in the legend, appear to be "*points secrets*," or private mint marks; others are of a more conspicuous character, and do not appear to be *secret* marks. In Hawkins's standard work on *English Silver Coins*, it is merely stated that "many of the coins of Edward I. have small marks upon them, introduced, probably, according to the fancy of the moneyer and without design;" but no description of the marks on the Canterbury pennies is there given. I am also myself inclined to think that they were certainly *not* without design. It is well known to all collectors of English coins, that in the reign of Edward I. was discontinued the practice, (hitherto almost universal) of each moneyer putting his own name, as well as that of the place, on the reverse of the coins. Consequently, we find that the legend on the reverse of Edward's Canterbury pennies is simply CIVITAS CANTOR (for "City of Canterbury"). But there is no doubt that several moneyers were employed there at the same time, for it is proved by the coins of the preceding reign that no less than thirteen (or perhaps fifteen) different moneyers worked in the Canterbury Mint in the reign of Henry III. The following are their names (as shown by the "short-cross" pennies of the first coinage of Henry III.), viz:—HENRI, IOHAN OR IOAN, IOAN CHIC, IOAN F. R., IVN, NICHOLE, NORMAN, OSMVND, ROGER, ROGER OF R., SALEMVN, SIMON, TOMAS, WALTER, WILLETA.

It is therefore my opinion, that the various little secret marks that occur on many of the Canterbury pennies of the Edwards were intended to mark which dies were the work of certain moneyers, so that a moneyer might afterwards be able to identify the particular coins for which he engraved the dies, although they no longer bore his name. There is a practice analogous to this in use at the Royal Mint at the present day. On many of the current coins may be perceived a minute number, which marks from what particular die the coin has been struck. Possibly, however, *some* of the peculiar marks on the pennies of the Edwards were intended to denote a different coinage, and thus indicate a chronological sequence, to which we have not now the key. But the classification of the coins of the first three Edwards is still in such an uncertain state, that I cannot here attempt anything towards deciding this curious question, only remarking that I cannot agree with Hawkins in assigning all the Canterbury pennies to either

Edward I., or Edward II., leaving none for Edward III. Probably those reading "EDWARD" and perhaps those with "EDWAR." ought also to be given to Edward III.

I will now proceed to give a concise catalogue of all the varieties of the Canterbury pennies of Edward I., II., and III. that I have myself examined, describing at the same time the little peculiarities and *points secrets*, of which, so far as I know, no list has hitherto been published; and I hope that it will be found of some interest to collectors and students of English coins, and lead to further researches on this curious subject.

*Pennies of Edward I.*—Class I. of Hawkins; Type I. of Mr. A. J. Evans.\*—*Obverse*. Full-face bust of the king crowned, with drapery on the shoulders. All within a beaded inner circle. A cross pâtee at the commencement of the legend, which is—EDW R ANGL DNS HYB. *Reverse*, A large cross extending to the edges of the coin. In each angle of the cross are three pellets, within an beaded inner circle. Legend, CIVITAS CANTOR. Large-sized coins, with large letters.

Many specimens of this type are apparently without any *point secret*. One variety has a *dot* between the D and the W in the obverse legend. A second has for secret marks—a *pellet* before EDW, and before CIVI. A third has a pellet before EDW, and before TOR. A fourth has three pellets on the king's breast (where the drapery joins,) and one pellet before CIVI. A fifth has the three pellets on the king's breast, and a pellet before TAS. A sixth has the three pellets on the king's breast, and a pellet before TOR. A seventh has the three pellets on the king's breast, but apparently no pellet or secret mark in the legends. All these seven coins are in my own collection.

There are several pennies of this type with the legend *blundered*. I possess one reading CANTVR on the reverse; and in the British Museum are: one reading *obv.* EDWR WR ANGL' DNS HII (no cross), *rev.* CACANT (for CANTOR). Another, *rev.* CANTON. A third, *rev.* CASTOR. A fourth, *rev.* CORCAS CANTOR, *obv.* also blundered.

*Edward I.*—Penny. Type 1a of Hawkins (figure 294). In the British Museum. This coin, perhaps unique, has *obv.* the bust in a triangle, like the Irish money.

*Pennies of Edward I.*—Class II. of Hawkins; Type II. of Mr. A. J. Evans.—Similar to Class I., also reading EDW. etc., but coins smaller, and with smaller letters. *Reverse*, CIVITAS CANTOR.

Some pieces of this type have the cross-strokes to the Ns as usual. Others have no middle strokes to any of the Ns in the legends. One variety of this class, in my collection, has a *rose* (of six petals) on the king's breast, and all the Ns in the legends have *two* cross-strokes. This is not mentioned by Hawkins, and is not in the Museum Cabinet.

A blundered penny of Class II., in the British Museum, reads CANTAS on the reverse.

*Pennies of Edward I.*—Class III. of Hawkins; Type III. of Mr. A. J. Evans.—Similar to Class II., (still reading EDW. etc. on the obverse,) but there is always a *star* on the king's breast. On most pennies of this type the star is an heraldic *mullet* (of five points); but I possess a variety which has the star with *six* points and also a Lombardic *n* (instead of the Roman N) in the word ANGL. I have also another, with a five-pointed star on the king's breast, very much larger than the usual coins of this class.

A blundered penny of this type, in the British Museum, reads CASTOR for CANTOR.

*Pennies of Edward II.*—With the king's name written EDWA.—*Obverse*, bust as before, draped. Legend, EDWA R ANGL DNS HYB, with cross pâtee at commencement. *Reverse*, CIVITAS CANTOR.

Some pieces of this class have nothing between HYB and the cross on the obverse. One, in the British Museum, has apostrophe and dot after HYB. Another has two pellets after HYB, and a third has three pellets after HYB; both these latter coins being in my collection. I am not sure whether these peculiarities are intended for *points secret* or not.

There are a good many pennies of this type with blundered legends. One, in the British Museum, reads HB for HYB; and another, from the Oxford find, (*Numismatic Chronicle*, xi. 266,) has ANG. for ANGL. I have noted eight different blundered *reverses*:

\* *Numismatic Chronicle*, N. S., Vol. XI, p. 265.

one with CANTAS, British Museum. A second with CANTOS, Oxford find. A third with CANCAN, Oxford find. A fourth with CANTOR, B. M. A fifth with CIVITAS CA...COR, B. M. A sixth with CIVITAS CANGLI, B. M. A seventh with NIVI TAS CAN AN, B. M. An eighth with CIVIT VIT NA TOR, B. M.

*Pennies of Edward II. or III.*—With the king's name written EDWAR.—*Obverse*, EDWAR R ANGL DNS HYB, with cross patée at commencement. *Reverse*, CIVITAS CANTOR. One sort has no apostrophes and no dots between the words. (B. M. and H. W. H.) Another variety, in B. M., has two pellets after HYB. A blundered specimen in the Museum reads CIVITIIT AANTOR.

*Pennies of Edward II. or III.*—Reading EDWR. R.—*Obverse*, bust as before, draped. Legend, EDWR' R' AGL' DNS HYB', with cross patée. *Reverse*, CIVITAS CANTOR. British Museum cabinet, and my own.

*Pennies of Edward II. or III.*—Reading EDWARD.—*Obverse*, bust as before, draped. Legend, EDWARD R ANGL DNS HYB, with cross patée. *Reverse*, CIVITAS CANTOR.

The usual coins of this type have nothing but the cross after HYB, but a variety, in the British Museum, has dot and apostrophe after HYB. I have also another in my collection which appears to have a pellet over the centre of the large cross on the reverse.

*Unappropriated.*—A very blundered penny in the British Museum reads—*obv.* EDWINS HINGL DNS HYB, *rev.* CIVITAS ORITOR. It is probably of Canterbury, but it is impossible to say of which class.

### GREEK COINAGE.

THE following comments on Ancient Greek Coinage we take from an article by Sir John Lubbock, lately printed in "Nineteenth Century."

GREEK coinage, however rude at first, soon acquired a beauty and perfection surpassing all our modern efforts. The staters, for instance, of Philip and Alexander, the coins of Syracuse and Metapontum, present to us the most lovely female faces and deities—perfect models of human beauty. Animals are also admirably represented, not only the horse, the lion, &c., but other smaller creatures, as the harvest mouse on an ear of wheat on a Metapontum coin, and even insects, as, for instance, the praying mantis. The heads on the earliest coins represent gods and goddesses, the first human head being that of Alexander the Great on a coin of Lysimachus, and even in this case the great conqueror is represented in his divine character as descended from Jupiter Ammon, which is indicated by the ram's horn. It would not, however, be fair to modern mints to attribute the comparative poverty of modern coins to want of skill. It is a great convenience that coins should lie flatly one on another; the greater boldness of ancient coins, however it may add to their beauty, necessarily rendered this impossible. Not only were the Greek coins admirable for their beauty, but they were also made of pure metal and full weight, offering in this respect a striking contrast to those of most countries. There were, however, of course, exceptions. Thus the money of Phocaea was notorious for its bad quality. Herodotus mentions, though with some doubt, that Polycrates, tyrant of Samos, having to pay a large sum to the Lacedaemonians, "coined a large quantity of the country money in lead, had it gilt, and gave it to them; and that they, having received it, thereupon took their departure." That the true theory of coinage was well understood in Greece, we may see from the words of Aristotle, who thus describes the origin of coins: "It became necessary, therefore, to

think of certain commodities, easily manageable and safely transportable, and of which the uses are so general and so numerous that they insured the certainty of always obtaining for them the articles wanted in exchange. The metals, particularly iron and silver and several others, exactly corresponded to this description. They were employed, therefore, by general agreement, as the ordinary standard of value and the common measure of exchange, being themselves estimated at first by their bulk and weight, and afterwards stamped, in order to save the trouble of measuring and weighing them." In ancient Greece, as now, the right of coinage was a prerogative of the sovereign. And here we find a curious difference between the basileus and the turannos. The former coined in his own name, but the turanni, however absolute, never did so ; their money was issued in the name of the people. Coins, are, of course, very instructive from a historical point of view. Nevertheless, it is somewhat remarkable that the Greeks do not seem to have struck commemorative medals. Even on their coins they did not for a long time admit any allusions to contemporary events, and then only in an indifferent manner. Almost the only exception is the enormous gold piece struck by Eucratides, King of Bactriana, of which the French possess the only known example. The fact that it is just equal to twenty staters, does not prove that it was ever intended to serve as a coin, against which the size must have been a great objection. Moreover, it would appear that very few specimens were struck. Indeed, there is some reason to suppose that the French example is the only one ever made, as the die appears to have been broken in striking it. Neither the Greeks nor the Romans had any name for a "medal" as distinguished from a true coin.

#### OLD MEDALS FOUND IN PHILADELPHIA.

THE following "cutting" from a Philadelphia paper gives an account of the exhumation of two early American Medals in that city.

A GENTLEMAN in Philadelphia recently bought and placed in his museum, two rare silver medals, said to have been dug up while making excavations at Ninth and Christian Streets. Each medal is about the size of a silver dollar, and almost as sharp and perfect as when first struck. One of them is the Kittanning or Armstrong medal. Colonel John Armstrong, with the troops under his command, destroyed the Indian village of Kittanning, and the city of Philadelphia awarded him a silver medal. He afterward rose to the rank of general. The device of the medal is as follows : Obverse, An officer, accompanied by two of his men, is represented pointing to a soldier firing under cover of a tree, with the Indian prostrate before him. In the background are shown the Indian wigwams in flames. The legend is, "Kittanning destroyed by Colonel Armstrong, Sept. 8, 1756." Reverse, The coat of arms of the corporation of Philadelphia, consisting of four devices, viz., on the right a ship under full sail, on the left an evenly balanced pair of scales ; above the ship a sheaf of wheat, and to the left two hands joined. The legend is, "The gift of the Corporation of the City of Philadelphia."

The other medal commemorates peace with the Indians. On the obverse is a laureated bust of George II., king of England, "Georgius II. Dei Gratia."

The reverse shows a white man and an Indian seated on opposite sides of a fire and beneath a tree. The white man is in the act of presenting his companion with the calumet of peace, which he has been smoking. The sun, with his diverging rays, is above. Legend, "Let us look to the Most High, who blessed our fathers with peace, 1757." An association was formed for the purpose of promoting peace with the Indian tribes, and was chiefly composed of members of the religious Society of Friends. Silver medals were struck by the association and presented to the Indians. The medals described above were engraved and struck by Edward Duffield of this city, and are believed to have been among the first made in the Province of Philadelphia.

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### THE ANNUAL ASSAY OF U. S. COINS.

BY W. E. DU BOIS.

NEITHER the numismatic philosopher, nor the coin-collector, ordinarily cares much as to what the coins are made of, or how much they are intrinsically worth. A small copper coin will often take precedence in his eyes of a heavy gold one. There are numerous proofs of this fact in coin sales, and to the unenlightened world around, who go by currency values, they are startling and unaccountable. The great point of the coin fancier is, not to get gold, silver, or copper, but to obtain the piece in good condition: "just as it came from the dies," or nearly as good. The next great point is, to have a coin which nobody else has, or which is in the hands of a very select few. After those two considerations, the historical interest comes in, modestly taking the third place, yet of much importance.

Here let us mention an interesting case in point. The Act of March, 1849, authorized the issue of a double eagle, or twenty-dollar piece. This was to meet the abundance of gold then pouring in from the new discoveries in California. The dies for the same, the work of Mr. Longacre, were not ready until December. Only one piece was struck of that date, and the Director of the Mint, Dr. Patterson, wisely forecasting its future interest and value, had it placed in the Mint Cabinet, where it is labelled UNIQUE. Very recently, a gentleman from Boston, who spares no pains and no expense to secure the rarest pieces, stood still before this piece awhile, and remarked to the curator, that if it were offered for sale with no lower limit than five thousand dollars, he would go beyond that mark. The cheek on the lady-face was a little too much rounded for coining, and was flattened for 1850, in which year over twenty-six million dollars in this single denomination were struck. So that, to the collector there is a vast difference of value between 1849 and 1850.

It is doubtful, therefore, whether your readers will take any interest in an account of the Annual Mint Assay, for which you ask me. They ought to know, however, that in the language of the Mint law, "at every delivery of coins by the coiner of each Mint, it shall be the duty of the superintendent, in presence of the assayer, to take indiscriminately a certain number of pieces of each variety for the annual trial of coins," which shall be sealed up and deposited in a pyx, and so secured by diverse locks that no one officer can have access to its contents. In the case of other Mints than the one at Philadelphia, the packages are transmitted thither, and held for the same trial.

And again, it is provided that "to secure a due conformity in the gold and silver coins, to their respective standards of weight and fineness," a Commission shall assemble at the Philadelphia Mint, on the second Wednesday in February; said Commission consisting of certain officers of the Government *ex officio*, and such other persons as the President shall designate, who shall open the packages, count the coins, and have them carefully weighed and assayed. Formerly these operations were performed only on masses of coin melted together; but, in better accord with Mint laws, trials are also made of single pieces. The whole transaction is under the personal superintendence of the Director of the Mint, who brings one of his clerks from Washington to record the proceedings. But the chair is always taken by the Judge of the District Court of the United States, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the officer first named in the law. Some eight or ten gentlemen from various parts of the Union, statesmen and capitalists, professors and men of science, are present as special commissioners. The Chairman names a Committee on Weighing, and a Committee on Assaying. As there are several Mints under trial, and gold and silver coins from each, they are actively employed for at least two days. Their work is chiefly that of supervision and recording results. In the matter of assay, the samples are so arranged by the Committee, that the Mint operators do not know where the samples belong. This, of course, is a guarantee of impartiality.

Here I must take a little room to explain that the mint laws of every country allow certain limits of deviation, both in weight and fineness, from the exact standards. This could not be permitted in weights and measures, which are adjusted carefully and slowly to the closest practical compliance; but in the rapid operation of coinage, such nicety would be impracticable, and indeed useless. If coins were so adjusted, in weight, a brief wear would make various stages of inequality.

Those limits, in the early years of the Mint, were much wider than they are now, because the processes have been improved upon, and the implements are of more refined construction. It will give a sufficient idea of the advance, to state that when the Mint was established, nearly ninety years ago, the allowed deviation from standard of fineness, both in gold and silver coins, was *seven* parts in a thousand (strictly 1 in 144), while now it is *one* part in the gold, and *three* parts in the silver. The deviations as really found, by the late Commission, were about half of those measures, in the extreme cases. The daily workings are still closer.

The findings are highly satisfactory; and yet I need not say, that until the weighing and assays are finished, there is some nervousness in the operative officers, however well kept out of sight. There is always danger of some mishap in the process; some possible revelation not anticipated; something not easy to explain to persons not familiar with such work. So that the trial is a real trial, and Mint officers are glad when it is safely through.

It may seem, taking another view of the matter, that the trial is of no use, or that it comes too late. These reserved coins are the representatives of large deliveries which have been paying out during the whole previous year. To have a grand inquest a month later seems like examining the stable-lock after the horse has disappeared. But there is another scrutiny which forms part of the functions of the Mint Bureau, and that consists in sending coins

taken at random every month, from one Mint to another, for trial. Thus the coins of Philadelphia are examined at the Assay Office in New York, both as to weight and fineness of individual pieces; and those of New Orleans are tested at Philadelphia. The western Mints keep a similar watch upon each other. Probably a more direct system of checks will be ordained, by which the monthly assays will be made at Washington.

I may mention a third guard, however, which operative officers hold in much respect. It is the fact that foreign Mints are constantly proving our coins, just as we are constantly trying theirs. If we do not find them up to the mark, we make no secret of it, and we expect the same impartial dealing. And it is somewhat of a compliment that the foreign Mints occasionally send their coins direct to us to have them tested.

Thus there is the safeguard of three sorts of trial. The first, by the Annual Commission, is a certificate to the public that the coins in their hands are up to weight and fineness, for the year preceding. The second is an assurance to the Treasury Department, and especially the Chief of Bureau, that things are working right. And the third is a guarantee to the commerce of the world, which is governed not a little by national coin and the incessant shipments thereof.

I need not say that we do not starve the jury, although we do little more than dine them a couple of times. Their travelling expenses are paid, and doubtless they consider the novelty of the employment, with what is to be seen and learned, a good part of the *honorarium*.

The Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint does the honors of the house handsomely, and at the conclusion, presents each Commissioner with a silver medal specially got up for the occasion. It is doubly to be prized by them, both as a memento of their visit, and because so few are struck. The medal for this meeting bears the head of President Hayes.

A similar "trial of the pyx" is made, with much ceremony, at the London Mint, in the presence of the Lords of the Privy Council.

By the new mint law of France the annual trial is made by a scientific commission which exercises authority over mint workings all the year.

#### LOST COUNTRIES FOUND BY COINS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *New York Times* has furnished an interesting story of the manner in which Numismatics have led to some discoveries, from which we take the following :—

ONCE, when looking over a collection of odds and ends, one of the numismatists in France came across a small, insignificant piece, not much bigger than a nickel. On its face it bore a head of Jupiter. That, however, amounted to nothing. On the reverse was the form of a dog, with beams radiating from him; then there was a bee, the legend in Greek, GLAU—the whole surrounded by a vine. Now, the figure of a dog with the radiating beams and the bee were known. They were typical—the first of Ceos, the other of Julis, both islands in the Ægean Sea. But what was *Glau*? There was the mystery. Book-lore came in there, and every geographical work that the expert could find was consulted. It took years to find it out. Then

a reference was found to a small island called Glauconesus, so named because it just loomed over the azure sea.

Ulysses might have sighted it. It looked like a blue cloud to the Greek sailor. The existence of this island was quite positively demonstrated as having belonged to a period long before the Christian era. We all know how, in this portion of Europe, there is elevation and depression of the land. Glauconesus, the Blue Island, is, then, found to-day as a shoal, between Ceos and Julis. In the old classic time it bore on its surface a temple sacred to Jupiter, and produced the vine. There is a system, it should be remembered, about all designs on Greek coins. They designate respect to the deity worshiped and show the principal product of the soil.

There was a lost city which owes its place to a coin. For over a thousand years no one knew where *Pandosia* was. History told us that at Pandosia King Pyrrhus collected those forces with which he overran Italy, and that he established a mint there; but no one could put his finger on Pandosia. Eight years ago a coin came under the sharp eyes of a numismatist. There were the letters — Pandosia — inscribed on it, but what was better, there was an emblem, indicative of a well-known river, the Crathis. Then everything was revealed with the same certainty as if the piece of money had been an atlas, and Pandosia, the mythical city, was at once given its proper position in Bruttium. Now, a coin may be valuable for artistic merit, but when it elucidates a doubtful point in history or geography, its worth is very much enhanced. The silver coin, which did not weigh more than a quarter of a dollar, because it cleared up the mystery of Pandosia, was worth to the British Museum \$1,000, the price they paid for it.

## CANADIAN NUMISMATICS.

### PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

[Continued from VOL. XIV, p. 77.]

BEFORE describing the *Un Sou* tokens, it may be well to explain how they are to be arranged. To me they form the most interesting series of coins issued in Canada, for there is still much of mystery surrounding them. The questions: who were the coiners? where were they minted? who the issuers? and what the number of varieties? remain to a certain extent unanswered.

As all have the same design, and the variations are often slight, the series is a difficult one to arrange and properly describe. It will be necessary to give much minute detail, so as to point out the differences to the collector wishing to know the vacancies in his cabinet. The frequent interchange of dies has made the matter still more complicated. It will be seen that some classification of the forty or more known varieties is necessary. The simplest mode of grouping them is by the variations on the reverse. I shall therefore divide the series into nine groups, (numbered from A to I,) determined mainly by the number of leaves in the wreath.

#### *Group A. "½ penny" reverse.*

LIX. *Obv. \* TRADE & AGRICULTURE \* LOWER CANADA* A bouquet consisting of a rose and thistle on either side, three wheat-heads at the top, two

of which incline to the left. The centre of the bouquet is made up of blades of wheat, rose leaves and buds.

*Rev. BANK TOKEN MONTREAL.* A wreath consisting of laurel leaves to left, and long slender leaves to right. Within the wreath  $\frac{1}{2}$  | PENNY. Copper. Size 27 m. R 6.

Although this token may not be properly described as one of the *Un Sous*, yet having the bouquet and wreath in common with them, I class it as one of the series as Group A. As not more than two or three are known, and these have long been in the hands of collectors, no issue could have gone into general circulation. The similarity of the lettering and close resemblance of some of the leaves in the bouquet to the "Rebellion token," described as CII, points to J. Arnault as the engraver of this coin. Sandham figures it on Plate VI, No. 5.

*Group B. Sixteen leaves in wreath.*

LX. *Obv. + AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE + BAS. CANADA.* A bouquet tied with bow to left and one ribbon to right. The bouquet consists of four shamrocks, two thistles, one rose leaf, one ear of wheat, and one wheat blade to the left. One shamrock, five rose leaves,\* one bud, one rose, one ear, and two blades to the right.

*Rev. TOKEN MONTREAL.* A wreath of sixteen laurel leaves, eight on either side; in most of the spaces between the leaves are berries. The wreath is tied at the bottom with a bow, on either side of which is a berry extending above the bow. Within the wreath UN | SOU. Copper and brass. 27 m. C.†

In Sandham's work this token appears to be catalogued three times, (Nos. 41, 55 and 56.) After having compared a great number of specimens, and looked over such collections as have been open to my inspection, I have only been able to find one variety. The style differs from those that follow, and the relief is not so high. It is also found struck over coins that at one time formed the bulk of our Canadian circulation. I have specimens struck over pieces described by Sandham as Nos. 8, 23, and 26, "Doubtful." This would indicate that the coin was struck in Montreal. The edges of many specimens are coarsely milled, but as the milling seems to pertain to those struck over older coins, and is wanting on such as are struck from fresh blanks, this coin cannot be described as milled.

LXI. *Obv. + AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE + BAS-CANADA.* Bouquet as in last, with small angular bow to left and two ends of ribbon to right. To the left two oak leaves, one shamrock, two thistles, two blades, and one ear. To the right three shamrocks, four rose leaves, two buds, one of which is above the rose, one rose, and one ear.

*Rev.* Similar in design to last, but the bow is more angular, and the berries on either side of the bow are lower. The leaves to the left of the wreath are more spread. Copper. Size 27 m. R 6.

I have marked this coin as of the highest degree of rarity. The only specimen known to me is the one in my own collection, although through the similarity it has to a number of the commoner varieties, specimens may have been overlooked in hunting up a set.

LXII. *Obv.* Similar to last. The bouquet has to the left two oak leaves, two thistles, three blades, one shamrock, and one ear. To the right two shamrocks, four rose leaves, one oak leaf, one rose, one ear, and one blade.

\* When a leaf or ear of wheat is so near the centre as to incline neither to the right nor to the left, I describe it as being to the right.

† The letter C indicates that the piece, to the description of which it is attached, is quite common, commanding in ordinary condition little above par value.

*Rev.* Same as last. Copper. Size 27 m. R 3.

This piece in the design of the bouquet closely resembles the last, but one of the shamrocks is between the rose and ear, and the ends of the ribbon overlap so as to appear almost as one.

LXIII. *Obv.* Similar to LXI. The ends of the ribbon are more curved. The bouquet has to the left two oak leaves, two thistles, three blades, one shamrock, and one ear. To the right three shamrocks, four rose leaves, one oak leaf, one rose, one blade, and one ear.

*Rev.* Same as LXI. Copper. Size 27 m. R 4.

The leaves described here as pertaining to the oak, Sandham designates as those of the thistle. The engraver of these dies cannot have been a student of nature, or there had been no disagreement regarding the identity of plants so different. Still, the width of these leaves in proportion to their length, and the absence of spines, has caused me to give the preference to the oak.

LXIV. *Obv.* Same as LXIII.

*Rev.* Similar to LXI. The leaves lie closer to the stem. There is a berry to the right of the bow, but none to the left. Copper. Size 27 m. C.

There is a dot just over the o in *Sou* in this coin, and it appears with few exceptions throughout the series. As this dot is exactly in the centre, it may have been placed there by the engraver as a guide in arranging the distances of the leaves in the wreath.

LXV. *Obv.* As LX. To the left three shamrocks, three maple leaves, three blades, two thistles, and one ear. To the right four shamrocks, one maple leaf, four rose leaves, one rose, one ear, and two blades.

*Rev.* Same as the last. Copper. Size 27 m. C.

Sandham, doubtful as to the engraver's botanical accomplishments, was at a loss how to class what I have described as maple leaves. But, as the maple is a recognized Canadian emblem, and especially so of Lower Canada, there cannot be any doubt that it is what was intended to be represented in our emblematic bouquet.

LXVI. *Obv.* AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE. BAS-CANADA. Bow to the right of the bouquet, two ends of ribbon to the left. To the left one maple leaf, two shamrocks, two thistles, three blades, and two ears. To the right seven rose leaves, one rose, three blades, and one ear.

*Rev.* Same as LXIV. Copper. Size 27 m. C.

There is a crack across the top of the bouquet. A number of varieties of the *Un Sou* tokens were issued by an exchange broker named Dexter Chapin; but which varieties, or how many, it is now impossible to learn. He furnished, for a number of years, sufficient copper change to supply all comers. The amount he thus pushed into circulation is variously estimated at from ten to twenty thousand dollars, netting Mr. Chapin a handsome profit.

LXVII. *Obv.* Similar to LXI. No bow; the ends of the ribbon extend to either side of the bouquet. To the left two oak leaves, two thistles, two blades, and one ear. To the right three shamrocks, four rose leaves, one bud, one rose, one ear, and two blades.

*Rev.* Similar to LXI, but the bow is higher and has no berry to the right. The berry to the left is lower. Copper. Size 27 m. R 4.

The bouquet figured on this obverse is identical with that appearing on the "Duseman" token, and although the crack is wanting and the surface of the coin much smoother, there is little doubt that both pieces were struck from the same die. This is the first combination with which this obverse was struck; it also appears with two

others, but in a less perfect condition, and when they were worn out, it was still sufficiently legible for a fresh coinage in combination with the Duseman die. The surface was then worn and corroded, the old crack had widened and deepened, and a new crack had appeared, confirming the belief that the "Dusemans" were struck from discarded dies, the obverse having no doubt been rejected by Mr. Seaman on account of the incorrectness in spelling.

LXVIII. *Obv.* Same as LXII.

*Rev.* Same as last. Copper. Size 27 m. R 1.

A mule piece, as both dies occur with other combinations. In the whole forty-four varieties there are only twenty-eight different obverses and twenty-six reverses, inclining one to the belief that as one die became useless a new one was engraved, the coiner ordering a new obverse or reverse as necessity required.

*Group C. Seventeen leaves in wreath.*

LXIX. *Obv.* Same as LXVI.

*Rev.* TOKEN MONTREAL Wreath of seventeen leaves, nine of which are to the left and eight to the right. The wreath has no bow, and enclosed is the inscription, UN | SOU. Copper. Size 27 m. R 2.

The reverse is not deeply engraved, and although showing less signs of giving out than the obverse, never occurs with any other. The crack across the bouquet is more extended, showing that it was struck with this reverse later than with LXVI.

LXX. *Obv.* Similar to LXI. Bow to the right, two ends of the ribbon to the left. Bouquet has to the left two shamrocks, two oak leaves, two thistles, one bud, two blades, and one ear. To the right four shamrocks, four rose leaves, one oak leaf, one bud, one rose, one ear, and two blades.

*Rev.* As last, but the wreath is tied with a bow, and the eight leaves are to the left, with nine to the right. Copper. Size 28 m. R 1.

This piece differs from the rest as to size, while the planchet is thinner and the relief somewhat lower. The finish also is hardly equal to those previously described, showing that it was issued from a different establishment from the bulk of the series. Sandham has described as No. 38 a *Sou* of this group, which much research on my part has failed to bring to my knowledge.

*Group D. Wreath of eighteen leaves without bow.*

LXXI. *Obv.* Same as LXVII.

*Rev.* TOKEN MONTREAL Wreath of eighteen leaves without a bow, nine on either side. The two bottom leaves extend upward and are near each other; within the wreath UN | SOU. Copper. Size 27 m. R 1.

This *Un Sou* is related like LXVII to the Duseman. Although coined later, the crack had not made its appearance when the specimen under description was struck.

LXXII. *Obv.* Same as LXVII.

*Rev.* Similar to last. The differences are very slight; the leaves at the top of the wreath approach nearer each other, and there is a berry directly over the n in Montreal. Copper. Size 27 m. R 2.

The difference between this and the token previously described is so slight, that it requires a careful inspection to note the points in which they vary. It is also a relative of the Duseman, more intimate perhaps, because the crack has made its appearance, but not so deep.

LXXIII. *Obv.* Same as LXV.

*Rev.* Similar to LXXI, but the leaves at the top of the wreath are closer; the others are more spread and better formed. Copper. Size 27 m. C.

A coin struck at a later time than LXV, for the obverse shows signs of wear. I would infer, from this and other similar instances, that most of the sixteen-leaved group appeared earlier than the eighteen-leaved varieties.

LXXIV. *Obv.* : AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE : BAS—CANADA The bouquet has a bow to the right, and two ends of ribbon to the left. There are to the left two shamrocks, four maple leaves, two thistles, two blades, and one ear. To the right three shamrocks, three rose leaves, six blades, one rose, and one ear.

*Rev.* Same as last. Copper. Size 27 m. C.

This variety, with the last, is rather plentiful. Varieties bearing these two obverses are by far the most common of the series.

LXXV. *Obv.* • AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE • BAS CANADA Bouquet without bow or ends to tie. To the left twelve leaves, two buds, and two flowers. To the right eleven leaves, two flowers, and two thistles. Some of the leaves are not well struck up, and appear indistinct.

*Rev.* As LXXI, but the two upright leaves at the bottom of the wreath are much farther apart. Copper. Size 27 m. R 3.

The dies of this coin were found in August, 1863, in the cellar of a building tenanted by Dr. Piccault, a druggist. His son, having some taste for numismatics, saved them from the fate of old iron, and presented them to the collection of the Montreal Numismatic Society, then newly organized, and they were the first treasure of any importance that came into its possession. At the time of the discovery of the dies two or three impressions were struck off in lead, and at a later time a number of specimens in copper. As none but restrikes have ever come under my notice, and because the dies are still almost as sharp as from the hands of the engraver, it may safely be asserted that no specimens were struck for general circulation. Corroborative of this opinion is the fact that the dies have never been turned down so as to admit of a collar. This renders it difficult, almost impossible, to obtain a perfect impression. The design and composition of the bouquet is entirely different from all others of the series. It is likely, especially as the dies were discovered here, that they are the work of some now forgotten Montreal engraver.

LXXVI. *Obv.* + AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE + BAS CANADA Bouquet with bow to left and one end of ribbon to right. To the left three shamrocks, one maple leaf, two thistles, three smaller leaves, one ear, and one blade. To the right four shamrocks, four rose leaves, one maple leaf, one smaller leaf, one rose, one ear, and one blade.

*Rev.* Similar to LXXI; leaves more pointed in shape. Copper. Size 27 m. R 6.

Only two specimens of this token have come under my notice, and both of these were sold at auction in New York. The rarity, and the proof condition of the known specimens, lead to the belief that none were issued for general circulation.

[To be continued.]

R. W. M<sup>C</sup>LACHLAN.

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A FACT probably but little known is that the United States nickel five-cent piece furnishes a key to metric measures and weights. This coin is two centimetres in diameter, and its weight is five grammes. Five of them placed in a row will give the length of the decimetre, and two of them will weigh a decagramme. As a kilolitre is a cubic metre, the key to the measure of length is also the key to measures of capacity.

## THE INCREASE OF COIN COLLECTORS IN THE WESTERN COUNTRY.

" My opinion with regard to the high prices to which certain dates of our ordinary subsidiary silver have been driven, is less the result of real scarcity than a temporary excitement brought to bear by a number of dealers. Several of those dates rated as scarce, in fine condition, are quite frequently met with here in the West in circulation. Of course I refer to circulated coins. The proofs of many are necessarily limited. My remarks apply to at least twenty or more types and dates, about which the later collectors have been deceived, and prices not warranted by the facts have been obtained. With regard to real rarities, some operators have managed to have them quoted so high, that many collectors in only moderate circumstances as to money, are abandoning the thing in disgust. 'The West is taking much interest in Numismatology.'

COLLECTOR.

## NUMISMATIC DISCOVERIES.

WHEN the Germans entered into possession of the grounds and ruins once the establishment of the Knights of St. John at Jerusalem, a discovery was made of coins dating from the eighth to the tenth centuries of the Christian era. An earthen lamp containing forty-one pieces of gold, and a vessel which was filled with one hundred and eighteen silver medals, together worth about one hundred and twenty-five dollars in precious metal, were among the discoveries of interest. Some of them were of great rarity, and a few of them hitherto unknown to collectors. Deposited at once in the cabinet of the Berlin Museum, they have been recently briefly noticed by Dr. Ad. Ermann, in the *Zeitschrift of the Deutschen Palæstin Vereins*.

Several belong to the period of the Ommiade dynasty, (661-750,) whose coins have almost wholly disappeared. Many struck in Syria and Palestine are of peculiar interest. For example, whereas down to the present time only a single silver coin of Tiberias has been known, this collection embraces one of gold and another of silver, both dating about 320 of the Flight, or 931-2 A. D. Damascus is represented by a single *dirhem*; and *Hums* is elevated from the rank of copper currency alone to that of silver, by two silver pieces. Possibly Jerusalem is intended by the title *Filestin*, literally Palestina, borne by one silver and by several gold coins of the greatest rarity. Even Egyptian money found its way into this region, and contributes a large number of medals, both of silver and gold. We shall wait with interest for further accounts of this valuable discovery. The buildings, which have long been in ruins, were near the famous Church of the Holy Sepulchre; they were formerly a hospital and house of refuge for pilgrims. The Moslems have held them since the final expulsion of the Crusaders.

The excavations for the foundation of Madame Ristori's mansion at Rome, which the Marchese Grillon, her husband, is to erect for her, had not proceeded far when the workmen came upon a large deposit of ancient bronzes. Some of the statuettes are Roman and some Greek, and the whole collection is worth not less than \$25,000. In digging the foundations for a gasometer at Monaco, nine bracelets, a gold medallion of Gallian, a gold bust of Gallian, two inches in height, and eight gold medals were discovered.

Some of the bracelets are believed to be decorations belonging to a Roman general under Probus.

As a farmer was digging near a hedge at Mantua a short time since, he found an earthen pot containing a large number of gold pieces belonging to the sixteenth century, and including some half and quarter doubloons of Spain and Genoa, and several florins of Cosmo III. and Ferdinand de Medicis, Grand Dukes of Tuscany.

An old medal has come to light at Nantucket, bearing a full-length picture of Tristram Coffin on the obverse, and the words, "Tristram Coffin, the first of the race that settled in America—1642;" the reverse has four clasped hands, and the words, "Be united—Do honour to his name." Its history was unknown to the finder; the Medal itself is well known.

Samuel Dutcher, a gardener for Mr. W. W. Wilcox of Middletown, Conn., dug up a French copper coin in Mr. Wilcox's garden, a short time since, coined in 1655, which is in a fair state of preservation, considering the fact that it has probably been drifting about that garden more than two hundred years. Middletown was settled two hundred and thirty years ago, and the coin was perhaps brought there by some of the early settlers. On one side there is "Liard De France, B.", with the arms of France. On the reverse the legend is not legible; there is a head which has a crown upon it—apparently the bust of the reigning ruler of France at that time, who was Louis XIV.,—also the date, plainly visible, 1655.

A farmer named James Keetor, residing near Deep Creek, Norfolk County, Va., while ploughing in an old field that had not been under cultivation for several years, unearthed an iron chest containing several thousand dollars in American gold coin of dates as far back as 1830. The treasure is believed to have been buried during the last war. Mr. Keetor is a poor man, and the "find" was very acceptable.

#### LIFE-SAVING MEDAL.

EIGHT medals, under the Act of Congress of June 20, 1874, have been received through the Nantucket Custom House, for the following named persons: Thomas F. Sandsbury, James C. Sandsbury, Henry C. Coffin, Geo. E. Coffin, Marcus W. Dunham, John B. Dunham, Edwin R. Smith and Andrew Brooks. The first received a gold medal of the first class, and all the others a silver medal of the second class.

#### AN INDIAN MONEY-COWRIE IN A BRITISH BARROW.

IN excavating a mound or "barrow," not far from "Land's End" and Penzance, (England,) a few months ago, a little cowrie-shell, three-fourths of an inch in length, and of an entirely different type from any found on the Cornish coast, was discovered. In answer to an inquiry made at the British Museum, the gentleman who discovered it was informed that it was the common money-cowrie found all over India and the Pacific Ocean, but never on the British coasts. This specimen has been rubbed or scraped, by accident

or design, so that the enamel has been taken off the rounded surface, with the result of showing the blue color underneath. It is impossible, his informant added, that this shell could have come to England by itself, for it is not even found as a fossil. As it was used for money at a very early period, it is possible that Romans, or even Phoenicians, may have brought it. That it could have dropped through the upper strata of the mound at a later time seems impossible: (1) Because the original stratification had never been disturbed; (2) Because of the tightness with which the clay soil had been packed; (3) Because of its own lightness. It was filled with earth from the layer in which it occurred, and has slightly changed color since it was found. With it was a perforated flint, used perhaps as a pendant charm. Can any one give a parallel instance of Eastern objects occurring in British tombs?

#### CUTTINGS FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS.

OF the pieces of money to be coined in this State, an EAGLE will be of the value and pass for *Ten* of the pieces called Spanish milled Dollars—HALF-EAGLE, *Five*.—DOLLAR, *One*; HALF-DOLLAR, *Half an one*; DOUBLE-DIM, *One Pistareen*, (or fifth of a dollar); DIME, *Half a Pistareen*, (or tenth of a dollar);—CENT, (one hundredth of a dollar) about an English Half-penny, or Copper.—*The Massachusetts Centinel*, October 18, 1786.

THE copper coinage now emitting in New Jersey, is to amount at least to Ten Thousand Pounds, one-tenth part of which is to be paid to the State.—*The Massachusetts Centinel*.

#### COIN SALES.

WE have a number of Coin Sales to chronicle in this number, most of them occurring in the month of February, and have mentioned prices of some of the more interesting pieces. In addition to those referred to below, there were others of less interest. For the coming quarter several have been already announced, and more are in preparation. Mr. Frossard has one early in April, and Dr. Woodward one towards the last of the month, and another to follow in May.

##### WOODWARD'S TWENTY-SIXTH SALE.

MR. WOODWARD sold on the 27th and 28th of January, last, the Haines Collection; the Catalogue, 42 pages, contained 1126 lots, and the sale took place in the rooms of Messrs. Sullivan Bros. & Libbie, Boston. There was the usual variety of Coins, Medals, Tokens, Fractional Currency, &c., &c., and some very fine proof impressions of United States coinage. The prices were generally satisfactory, but not of sufficient interest to call for quotations.

##### HASELTINE'S SALE OF PAPER MONEY.

TUESDAY, Feb. 10, Messrs. Bangs & Co., of New York, sold a collection of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, Confederate Notes and Bonds, (to which Mr. Haseltine has given, we believe, more attention than any other dealer,) United States Fractional Currency, State, County, and other Notes, with other similar matters of antiquarian interest. The Catalogue, 24 pages, included 536 lots, but the prices, as might be expected, were nominal. Two pieces of the Fourth issue, for 15 Cents, with autographic signatures of Jeffries and Spinner, sold, that with *green* back for \$5.25, and that with *red* back for 5.50. We notice nothing else worth mentioning.

##### THE DAVIS COLLECTION.

ON the evening of the same day, Mr. Geo. A. Leavitt sold a collection of United States and foreign coins, political and papal medals, a series of bronze medals of Louis XIV., with a few ancient coins, &c., formerly belonging to Mr. M. W. Davis, of Iowa city. The Catalogue of 502 lots occupied 21 pages, and was prepared by Messrs. Scott & Co., of New York. We note a few of the prices obtained. *Half Dimes*.—1794, fine, \$5.60; one of '96, v. g. 5.30. *Dimes*.—1797, thirteen stars, g. 5.70; 1804, v. g. and

r. 13. *Half Dollars*.—1797, v. g. and now quite rare, 40; 1801, do. 8; 1802, do. 7; 1852, v. f. 6.25. *Dollars*.—1795, v. f. 7.55; 1855, do. 6.25. *Half Eagle*, 1795, five stars facing, 13; one of 1798, large date, 7.25. A Danish-Hebrew coin of Christian IV. of Denmark, of 1649, for Three Marks, similar to that described on p. 87 of this number, sold for 2. A bronze award medal of the Centennial Commission, size 48, brought 10; a curious piece, having a head of Satan on one side, and of Priapus on the other, brought a price as great as its lack of decency—7.50; a Hebrew mite, described as of "King Judas Aristobulus, obv. Judas the High Priest and the confederation of the Jews, rev. two cornucopias and a poppy-head, first King after the captivity, (106 B. C.) fine and exceedingly rare," 5.20; a "mite" of Herod Agrippa, (40 A. D.) 5; a copy of Vaillant's Roman Coins from Julius Caesar to Cornelia Supera, 2 vols. in one, Paris, 1694, in good order, 7.50. The "Napoleon Medals," London, 1837, 40 plates folio, 9; these are a selection from the *Tresor Numismatique*, reprinted in London, if our memory is correct. "Berzero, Greek and Roman Coins, Gems, &c.," 17; Lenormant's *Ancient Greek and Roman Coins*, 48 plates, 13; Madden's *Jewish Coinage*, 6.

#### THE BISPHAM COLLECTION.

MESSRS. BANGS & CO. sold on the 11th and 12th of February the collection of Mr. Samuel A. Bispham, containing some rare and desirable coins, catalogued by the Messrs. Chapman of Philadelphia, (38 pages, 1024 lots.) A Jewish shekel of Simon Maccabeus, year 2, sold for \$30, and a half shekel of the same for 29; these were both in fine condition. Some other pieces sold as follows: *Dollars*.—1794, good for date, 27; '98, 15 stars, small eagle, 12.50; '99, uncir. 6 stars facing, 18.50; 1839, Liberty seated, flying eagle, 29. *Half Dollars*.—1794, fine for date, 8.20; '95, 15 stars, 48; '96, 16 stars, 25; '97, 50; '815, v. f. 7.70; '36, Gobrecht head, 5.75; '52, New Orleans Mint, 6.50. *Quarter Dollar*.—1819, uncir. 5.25. *Dimes*.—1800, fine for date, 8.85; 1804, g. 10; '22, v. f. 18. *Half Dimes*.—1794, v. g. 6.30; '95, uncir. 4.50; '97, 16 stars, uncir. 13.10. *Cents*.—1796, very fine, thick planchet, lettered edge, 27; '96, Liberty cap, 8.30; '99, fine, 15; 1804, broken die, 13; 1805, uncir. 9; 1809, v. g. 7.50; 1811, v. f. 7.50; '23 over '22, v. f. 9.25; '25, uncir. 8. *Half Cent*.—1795, thick planchet, lettered edge, v. f. 12.50. *Colonials*.—Willow tree Shilling, not double struck, 19; Pine tree Threepence, 1652, uncir. 9.50; Massachusetts Half Cent, 1788, 4.16; Continental Currency, pewter, 5.50; Chalmers Annapolis Shilling, 5.50; Nova Constellatio, 1785, Immune Columbia, copper, v. r. 36; Non Vi, Virtute Vici, v. f. 33; New Jersey Cent, 1788; (Crosby, 3-B.) 6.50. *U. S. Gold*.—Half Eagle, 1795, nearly proof, 28.50; do. 1815, only four known, 150; Quarter Eagle, 1798, 6. *Medals*.—Centennial Award, copper shell from original dies, size 66, 15; same, type metal, 12; Early Campaign Medal of J. Q. Adams, 6; Washington before Boston, 1776, guaranteed original, bronze, pr. v. r. 7.50. *Miscellaneous*.—Pattern Dollar, '36, Gobrecht in the field, 42.10; Barber's Pattern Set, 1870, 10.50; Washington Cent, 1792, v. g. 30.

#### SALE AT PHILADELPHIA.

MESSRS. THOMAS BIRCH & SON sold in Philadelphia, on Tuesday, February 17, a small but interesting collection of Coins and Medals; the Catalogue, 16 pages, prepared by Mr. S. K. Harzfeld, contained about 350 lots.

#### THE STENZ SILVER COLLECTION.

FEBRUARY 27 and 28, Messrs. Bangs & Co. sold in New York a collection catalogued as the Stenz Silver Collection, and said to have been formerly that of Rev. T. Wilkinson of Berlin. It included a large assortment of coins, of "nearly every country, rare German crowns, an extensive selection of Reformation Coins and Medals," and some fine specimens of South American and United States Coins and Medals. There were 1200 lots, and the Catalogue, 68 pages, was prepared by Mr. Ed. Frossard. We name a few of the prices obtained:—Crown of Elizabeth, \$8; another of Charles I., Christo Avspice, 6; Gothic Crown of Victoria, lettered edge, 5; Pattern Five Franc of 1816, with bust of Napoleon II. pr. r. 8; Five Francs of Henry V., 1871, 6.50; one of Napoleon IV., 1874, 10; Scudo of Clement X., 1675, 7; Triple Crown of Charles III. of Sicily, 1733, 7.25; Broad Crown of Zurich, 1512, v. f. and r. 7.75; one of Wladislaus IV. of Poland, 1644, 8.25; Double medalllic Crown of Fred. Augustus of Poland, 1699, 8.75; Twenty Shilling piece, gold, of Charles I. of England, 9.50; Proof set of U. S. Coins, ten pieces, including gold, 1843, 100; Dollar of 1799, five stars facing, 6.25; Half Dollar, 1795, 9.10; Quarter, 1796, uncir. 27; Dime, same date, and v. f. 14; Half Dime, do. nearly proof, 29; Peace Medal, on surrender of New Amsterdam to Great Britain, 8.25; Libertas Americana, fine original in silver, 20; Armed Neutrality of Northern Powers, 1780, bust of Catharine of Russia, 19.50; Triple Thaler of Frederic William, 1640, 9.25; German Unity Medal, 1871, br. pr. size 35, 8; Medal com. column of Victory, Berlin, 1873, 8.50; Mortuary one and half Crown of Augustus, 1666, 11; Quadruple Crown of John Frederic, Wurtemberg, 11.95; Broad Crown, Hannover, 1625, 6.05; Double medalllic Crown, Augsburg Confession, 1629, 12.50; Crown of Eisleben, 1634, bust of Luther, g. and v. r. 14.50; Medal of Margaret Theresa, 1673, 10. There were many other interesting foreign pieces, which brought fair prices.

#### WOODWARD'S TWENTY-SEVENTH SALE.

MARCH 9-12, Messrs. Bangs & Co. sold in New York the Emery, Taylor, and Loomis Collections, catalogued for his twenty-seventh sale by Wm. Elliot Woodward of Boston. It was especially rich in silver medals, and perhaps the best collection that has been offered in this branch of numismatics since the Holland Sale, many of the pieces being unique; the gold coins, the Washington pieces, the Soldiers' Medals and Badges were quite valuable, and the last more numerous than have ever before been offered.

We quote a few of the prices. *Dollars*.—1794, unusually good for date, \$63; '98, small eagle, 15 stars, 11.25; 1802 over 1801, splendid, nearly proof, 8.50; 1802, uncir. 9.25; '36, sp. pr. 12; '39, br. pr. exceedingly rare, 44; '50, do. 11; '57, uncir. 5.50. *Half Dollars*.—'94, worn, 7.51; 1801, fine for date, 9.50; 1802, do. 10; '15, plugged, 6.30; '36, milled edge, uncir. 6.25; '52, v. f. 7.50. *Quarter Dollars*.—1821, sp. pr. 5; '24, proof, 20.50. *Dime*.—1800, fine for date, and v. r. 5.60. *Pattern Pieces*.—Half Dollar, 1838, rev. flying eagle, br. proof, 5.10; do. spread eagle, 7.15. *Cents*.—1797, uncir. (from Nichols hoard,) 18.25; '99, poor, but warranted, 6; 1804, fine for date, 7.05. *Half Cent*.—1793, v. f. 5. GOLD. *Eagle*.—'97, small eagle, 17. *Half Eagle*.—do. 26; '21, almost pr. 11; '27, nearly pr. 15; '29, do. small date, 14; another, do. smaller planchet, 19.50. *Quarter Eagle*.—'26, nearly proof, 8.90; '34, old variety, with motto, fine and rare, 10.25. *Medals, &c.*.—Franklin, "fur cap," bust to left, copper, gilt, pr. size 18, 9.50; Charles Wesley, silver, proof, wt. nearly 5 ounces, 5.10; City of Charleston to John McCollum, 10.13; Wright's Steamer San Francisco, size 30, 7.75; Arctic Medal to Robt. Bruce, 9; Furst's N. Y. Mech. Inst., proof, size 34, 8; Jefferson, Indian Medal, bronze, size 64, 6; Madison, Indian Peace Medal, silver, pierced, size 48, 7.25; Jackson, do. 8.75. A brass copy of the Higley Copper, proof condition, rare variety, 10; a curious and very rare Masonic, with obverse, two skeletons, struck in Rouen, 4.50. A Portuguese medal, 1775, probably referring to rebuilding of Lisbon after the great earthquake, silver, v. f. 4.25. Indian Medal of George III., size 50, 8.50. The Catalogue numbered 2941 lots, and filled 126 pages.

## TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

### BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

*December 5, 1879.* A monthly meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted: Mr. Rodney A. Mercur of Towanda, Penn., was elected a Corresponding Member. Mr. Joseph B. Ripley of Savannah, Geo., resigned, by letter, his membership, and his resignation was accepted by the Society. The President nominated Mr. Davenport to audit the Treasurer's accounts, and Messrs. Green and Marvin a committee to report at the annual meeting a list of officers for the coming year. Dr. Thayer showed some Roman Imperial Colonial coins of Alexandria, and some early Hindoo coins. Mr. Woodward exhibited a series of Chinese coins. The Society adjourned at 5 P. M.

*January 2, 1880.* The annual meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted, and a letter from Mr. Rodney A. Mercur, accepting Corresponding Membership, and another from Mr. Wm. Poillon of New York, presenting two medals of the Seventh Regiment, N. G., S. N. Y.; the thanks of the Society were voted for the donation. Mr. Joseph B. Ripley of Savannah was elected a Corresponding Member. Dr. Green for the Committee appointed at the last meeting, reported the former list of officers for re-election; this report was accepted and adopted. The Secretary showed the sham Washington Dollar of 1794, and mentioned the strange query concerning it in Frossard's Monograph. Mr. Woodward exhibited several interesting pieces, including a silver medal presented to Wm. McDonald, on occasion of the loss of steamer San Francisco, a fictitious medal of Queen Dido, a silver medal of Queen Victoria for Arctic Discoveries, a large Indian Peace Medal of President Jefferson, a Coronation Medal of William and Augusta of Prussia, a heavy ancient silver coin of the Orrescii of Macedon, (see volume of the Catalogue of British Museum,) and a curious piece with + N. E. Col + M, in centre a star on obv., and on rev. XII PENCE 1665. The Society adjourned at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  P. M.

*February 6.* A monthly meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted, and a letter from Mr. Joseph B. Ripley accepting Corresponding Membership. The Secretary also communicated some pamphlets presented by Mr. Isaac F. Wood of New York. The resignation of Dr. Thomas Hall was received and accepted. Mr. Woodward showed several pieces, among which was a particularly elegant medal with head of an officer of a Highland Regiment of the British Army. Mr. Marvin exhibited a gold Masonic medal of Hamburg. The Society adjourned at 5.10 P. M.

W. S. APPLETON, *Secretary.*

## AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.

THE Regular Meeting of the American Numismatic and Archæological Society was held January 20, at their Rooms, No. 30 Lafayette Place, President Anthon in the chair.

The Executive Committee recommended for election to Resident Membership, Mr. Henry Corbin Lawrence and Prof. Solomon Woolf. Acceptances of election have been received from Resident Member J. Otis Woodward of Albany, Corresponding Members Rodney A. Mercur, Edward Frossard, Thomas Warner, Henry W. Henfrey and Hon. John J. Knox; also from Horatio E. Burchard of Washington, as Honorary Member. The Committee stated that arrangements have been made for the use of their room, satisfactory to Mr. Feuardent, and consistent with the financial condition of the Society.

Mr. Wood, Chairman of the Membership Medal Committee, made his final report, showing a total of forty-four medals as having been taken out. On motion, the Committee was discharged, and the dies and other matter relating to the medal were ordered to be placed in the hands of the Treasurer.

The Librarian, Mr. Wood, made a verbal report, and called particular attention to several volumes recently received from Vice President Parish. On motion of Mr. Wright, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—"The special thanks of this Society are due to Mr. Daniel Parish, Jr., for his valuable donation to their Library of a complete set of Cohen's Description Historique des Monnaies, a volume of Spanheim, and one of H. Bolzenthals Medaillen-Arbeit, and highly appreciate the generous action which has so enhanced the numismatic literary property of the Society."

Mr. Lawrence, Curator, presented his written report, showing nine additions of coins, medals, and tokens from Messrs. Isaac F. Wood, Wm. Poillon, Geo. H. Lovett, and G. F. Ulex. On motion of Mr. Levick, the report was adopted. Mr. Wood stated that the Society was greatly indebted to Prof. Anthon for the Bulletin in the Hall, and to Mr. R. H. Lawrence for the one in the Room, and he moved a special vote of thanks to them for their donations, which was on motion adopted. The proposition to hold alternate meetings of an informal character was discussed, and resulted in the adoption of the following resolution:—"That this Society approve of the plan to hold informal meetings, and that the details be left with the Executive Committee."

President Anthon read extracts from a letter he had recently received, giving a detailed description of a silver piece (size of a dollar) about which information was desired. The description was apparently that of a coin of Aegina, but the size given was very much larger than those known, which are the size of a quarter of a dollar. Prof. Anthon illustrated his remarks with some fine specimens from his own collection.

On motion of Mr. Wood, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Whereas, the Assay Medals of the United States Mint have latterly become of increasing interest and value as historic-biographical memorials, by reason of their commemorating in portraiture and legend, noted men connected with the designs and issuance of the coinage of the U. S. Government, and said medals are in consequence not only of special interest to numismatists, but also to collectors of historic material generally; and whereas, the present method of their issuance confines their distribution to members of the Assay Commission only, and subjects those really interested in their collection to rare opportunities of purchasing these medals at second hand from unscrupulous dealers, and at extortionate prices,

*Resolved*, That this Society formally requests the Director of the Mint of the United States to place the said class of medals on sale in at least one kind of metal, for instance, bronze, in the same manner as the medals of Congress.

*Resolved*, That a Special Committee of three be appointed by the President of this Society, to confer with the Director of the Mint and such other Government officials as may be necessary, in the matter, and that said Committee be authorized to obtain, if possible, the coöperation of the various Numismatic and Historic Societies in the aforesaid request. The President appointed Messrs. Wood, Lawrence, and Wright as that Committee. These minutes having been read and approved, on motion adjourned.

W.M. POILLON, *Secretary*.

## FOREIGN SOCIETIES.

AT a recent meeting of the British Archaeological Society the Rev. Canon Pownall exhibited a coin of one of the types of Edward the Confessor, struck at Thetford, but bearing instead of the name of Edward, that of EDRED REX, and on the reverse ATSER ON THETFOR—Atser being a known Thetford moneyer of Edward the Confessor. Canon Pownall exhibited some counterfeit base shillings of Edward VI., without any trace of silver remaining upon them. Mr. P. Gardner read a paper "On some Coins brought from Kashgar by Sir Douglas Forsyth." Among these were two of iron, probably of a local issue. One of them bore a name resembling that of Hermaeus, Greek king of Bactria, in Aryan letters, and on the reverse some Chinese characters.

AT one of the recent meetings of the London Numismatic Society, a paper was read by Mr. Edward Thomas, in which he sought to give an explanation of the ancient symbol occurring on coins, vases, and elsewhere, called by the Indians (*swastika*) mystic cross, and found on many of the objects discovered by Schliemann in the ruins of Troy. The same design is also used on coats of arms, and is known in heraldry as a "cross potent rebated." With this emblem Mr. Thomas connected the "Triquetra," found on the coins of Lycia, that of Sicily, &c., and in later times on the Manx copper coins; he associated with it also the cross-like labyrinthine pattern of the early coins of Cnossus in Crete. At the same meeting, Dr. Aquila Smith, well known to American numismatists for his researches into the history of the *Quiescat plebs* or St. Patrick pieces, better known to our collectors, as the Mark Newby Halfpence (see *Journal*, Vol. VII, No. 1,) read a paper on the Irish Silver Coins of Henry VIII.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

Is there such a Washington really in existence as is represented in Dickeson's Numismatic Manual, Plate XII, 5, and described on page 129? The plate and description do not agree. The plate has the obv. of "large-eagle" cent combined with rev. of "fillet-head" cent; the description combines the obv. of "small-eagle" cent with its usual rev. *minus two stars*. Does either piece really exist?

W. S. A.

GOVERNOR CORNELL signed his first message with a gold pen made from Egyptian coins 4,000 years old, which has lately been presented to him.—*Daily Papers*. This is the saddest news (numismatically) that we have had for some time. The coins were worth far more than the message, in fact worth their weight in greenbacks of a thousand dollars each. The only consolation is that so few of them were required to make the pen. But, joking aside, what does the item mean? And what kind of coins were melted?

IN the Coin Collector's Journal, II, 34, is mentioned a Centennial Washington with heads of Kosciusko and Pulaski on reverse. Is this medal to be obtained anywhere? I have never seen it.

W. S. A.

AMONG the New Year's gifts published at Paris is one entitled "L'Art Ancien a l'Exposition Universelle de 1878," giving a full description of the ancient sculptures, bronzes, medals, illuminated manuscripts, &c., which were collected at the Trocadero and Champ de Mars.

KING OSCAR, of Sweden, has ordered several gold and silver medals to be struck, for presentation to the navigators who have succeeded in effecting a passage to the East, north of the continents of Europe and Asia.

AUSTRIA finds it profitable to continue the coining of the Maria Theresa Silver Dollar, with the original design and date, (1780,) because of its great popularity in Northern Africa and the Levant.—*Canadian Antiquarian*.

THE British Government is erecting a Mint at Hong Kong for the purpose of coining a silver piece for circulation in China. It is intended to take the place of the American and Mexican Dollar.—*Canadian Antiquarian*.

## BOOK NOTICES.

LES MONNAIES ROYALES DE FRANCE DEPUIS HUGUES CAPET JUSQU'A LOUIS XVI PUBLIEES PAR H. HOFFMANN EXPERT EN MEDAILLES ANCIENNES.—DESCRIPTION DES PIECES AVEC INDICATION DE LEUR VALEUR ACTUELLE. OUVRAGE ORNE DE 118 PLANCHES. PARIS CHEZ H. HOFFMANN, 33, QUAI VOLTAIRE 1878. Quarto, pp. xv, 215.

THIS beautiful volume will be gratefully welcomed by all who are interested in French numismatics. As M. Hoffmann says in his introduction, a general work on the subject has long been wanted, the last named by him being in fact that of Le Blanc, published in 1690. The works of Ruding, 1840, Heiss, 1865-9, and Schubert, 1858, have done so much for England, Spain, and Russia, as to leave France far behind; and M. Hoffmann has undertaken to remedy this. His volume, as appears from the title, is not absolutely a general work on the whole French series, but very nearly so, reaching from 987 to 1793. The plates form the important part of the work, and were first prepared; the text describes them, mentioning also varieties which it was not thought necessary to engrave. The first feeling, which an examination of the volume gives, is one of admiration for the beauty and interest of this long series. The skill of her workmen placed and kept France in the foremost rank for perfection of coinage, and the gold, beginning with Louis IX., 1226-70, represents from the first the highest development of artistic excellence.

It is not easy to write intelligent criticism of works like this, without the opportunity of studying a really full series of the coins. My own collection contains something to represent every reign, beginning with Louis IX. just mentioned, and I have also coins of his predecessors Louis VI. and Philip II. The chief fault, perhaps the only one, which I find with the book, is the absence of a full statement of the rules for distributing similar coins among kings of the same name, as we find so thoroughly undertaken for Edwards and Henries in Kenyon's Edition of Hawkins on Silver Coins of England, noticed in the *Journal* for last October. M. Hoffmann's aim was to condense as much as possible, but when we have six kings named Philip between 1060 and 1350, five named Louis between 1108 and 1316, and five named Charles between 1322 and 1498, the most exact and complete statement of the principles adopted for distinguishing the coins of the same type would have added value to the work, especially for collectors at a distance.

It is very interesting to follow, in a work like this, the gradual improvement of the coinage from the rude money of Hugh Capet to the exquisite pieces which characterize several of the later reigns. That of John, 1350-64, is worthy of mention for the number of different types. Real portraits first appear on the coins of Louis XII., 1498-1515. The issues of most of the reigns after his, form a collection in themselves, because of the number of mints and moneymen. The coinage of Francis I. has been made the subject of a special volume by M. de Saulcy. Of Francis II. no coins are known, except those struck in connection with his Queen, Mary Stuart, for France and Scotland, a fact which M. Hoffmann considers quite remarkable. With Louis XIII. as with Charles II. of England, begins what may be called the present style, particularly as regards workmanship. To him seven plates are given, while Louis XIV. claims no less than thirteen. During his long reign change was the order of the day, both as regards his portrait, and the design of the reverse. A perfect series of his crowns must make a beautiful and interesting group. We find here of course the pieces of fifteen and five sous, and the "double" struck for Canada. The last M. Hoffmann values at sixty francs, at which price he could undoubtedly dispose of some in this country. Under Louis XVI. the most important pieces are those of the competition of 1791, which introduces the coinage of a constitutional King of the French.

It remains only to speak of the appearance of the volume, which is most attractive in text and plates. The latter were engraved by Leon Dardel, under the immediate care and watchful oversight of M. Hoffmann. It is to be hoped that several copies will reach the United States, so that numismatic students may find it in the libraries to which they have most convenient access.

W. S. A.